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AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY DEFINED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KREISKY

(Following are excerpts from an address by the Austrian Foreign Minister delivered in New York before the United States Austrian Chamber of Commerce.)

Referring to recent events, Dr. Kreisky said that for the first time in its history, the small neutral nations are playing an important role in the United Nations.

"Chairman Khrushchev," the Austrian Foreign Minister said, "proposed to revise the structure of the United Nations Secretariat and to create a triumvirate in which the West, the East and the Neutrals would be represented. Much as I favor a more subtle approach to the problems of our changing world, I would like to make it unmistakably clear that certain principles must be adhered to under all circumstances. One of these principles is that every member state of the United Nations, big or small — the Ivory Coast as well as the USSR, Austria as well as the United States — has but a single vote. If democracy is to work in the international field, one must abide by the rules and count the votes — that is all."

"You will understand that the small countries are vitally concerned that this principle be upheld; to them it offers some measure of compensation — the only one, in fact, which they are likely to get today, when the great powers stride the world like colossi. This is why the United Nations means so much more to the small nations than to the big ones."

"It is of vital importance to draw attention to this fact because some among you, I am afraid, are getting a little tired of this Organization. For all I know, they may even compute the cost of the vast paraphernalia of the far-flung outposts of the United Nations, and consider the bill a bit steep. Believe me, Gentlemen, that if there were no United Nations, your worries would not be over. Nor could a substitute be bought cheaply. In fact, there is no substitute for the United Nations today."

Offering an appraisal of Austria's position, Dr. Kreisky emphasized that, contrary to a widely held view, Austria is not bound to a policy of neutrality by the 1955 State Treaty: "The concept of neutrality did, of course, play an important part in the negotiations leading up to that treaty; yet Austrian neutrality, as incorporated in our Constitution, is based upon

a unanimous and voluntary Act of Parliament." The Foreign Minister stressed that, "arriving at this decision, Austria was conscious of the fact that, in gaining her independence, she must not cause the delicate international balance to be upset."

"I have emphasized that Austria's commitment to a policy of neutrality is a voluntary one," Dr. Kreisky said. "I should like to be as precise and as outspoken with regard to Austria's concept of neutrality: as we see it, neutrality does not infringe upon the inviolable rights of the individual. It commits the state, but not the citizen. The citizen may freely express his opinion, indeed, he may also form parties which militate against his country's neutral status."

"It follows, then," the Foreign Minister declared, "that politically and ideologically, Austria is a part of the Western world, or in other words, *neutral but committed*: committed to the principles of Western civilization."

Other neutral states, the Austrian Foreign Minister continued, are *neutral and non-committed*, and there is a third group, again neutral, but committed to the East.

In keeping with this view, Dr. Kreisky predicted that a "bloc of the bloc-less" would not materialize. Austria had had no part in the recent political initiative of the neutral countries at the United Nations, he said.

In conclusion, referring to his address at the United Nations General Assembly, the Foreign Minister said: "In the recent past, it was the process of polarization which overshadowed all other developments. For some time, however, there has been evidence of another, simultaneous process which, in a period of relative stability and peaceful progress, might soon occupy the center of the political stage: it is the crystallization of several political and ideological centers which may well be destined to supplant the former clear-cut pattern of East versus West. Matters would then have progressed beyond the stage where the political problems besetting the world today can be exclusively seen in terms of 'oversimplified alternatives.'

"It may seem desirable to many of us — now more than ever, perhaps — to lean on oversimplified formulae. We must do better than that, however, if we really want to get at the root of the trouble."

AUSTRIA'S PROPOSAL FOR A SOLUTION OF THE SOUTH TYROL PROBLEM: TEXT OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION, SUBMITTED TO THE U.N.

The General Assembly,

Considering that the United Nations cannot remain indifferent to the fate of minorities,

Noting that a dispute has arisen between Austria and Italy on the problem of the Austrian minority in Italy,

Considering that the dispute centers on the question of the area to which a substantial and effective regional autonomy should be granted in order to safeguard the existence of the Austrian minority,

Noting that bilateral negotiations conducted for years have so far not yielded satisfactory results concerning effective protection of this minority by granting such an autonomy to the Province of Bozen/Bolzano where the South Tyroleans constitute a majority,

Considering that the Italian constitution provides for autonomous regions and that such regions already exist in Italy,

Considering that the consent of the freely elected representatives of the South Tyroleans seems essential to a satisfactory solution of the problem,

Considering the repeatedly expressed will of the South Tyroleans to solve the problems in accordance with the principles of the Charters of the United Nations,

Concerned that the tense situation created by the dispute might impair the friendly relations between the two countries,

Recognizes the justified demand of the South Tyroleans to a substantial and effective regional autonomy,

Recommends that the two parties concerned resume without delay negotiations aiming at the establishment of the Province of Bozen/Bolzano as an autonomous region with legislative and executive power,

Invites the two parties to submit a report on the result of these negotiations to the Sixteenth General Assembly.

SOUTH TYROLEAN REPRESENTATIVES APPEAL TO UNITED NATIONS

Senator Luis Sand and Vice-Chairman Alfons Benedikter and Friedrich Volgger of the South Tyrolean People's Party handed to Mr. Andrew Cordier, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, an appeal signed by the freely elected representatives of the South Tyrol, namely five members of the Italian parliament, 15 provincial deputies, and delegates of the 114 South Tyrolean communities.

The document reads as follows:

"We, the freely elected representatives of the South Tyrolean people in the Italian parliament, the Provincial Council and all communities in the Province of Bozen, who are authorized to speak for the whole people of South Tyrol, put our trust in the power of justice and express the firm hope that the matter of South Tyrol will find a just and speedy solution in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."

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may be quoted freely.

Source need not be given.

**MOURNING IN THE TYROL:
40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIVISION**

In the very days when the Austrian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly pleads for the violated rights of the South Tyroleans, the 40th anniversary took place of the day on which the peace treaty of St. Germain divided the land of the Tyrol and made the area south of the Brenner - South Tyrol - Italian territory.

This memorial day brought mourning to the Tyrol, and in addition, to all of Austria - mourning which found its most visible expression in the country most immediately concerned. The public buildings of the federal government, of the communities and other public units had their flags at half mast and mourning crepe wrapped around the flagstaffs. Factories and shops stopped work for five minutes.

At the same time, the Tyrolean Landeshauptmann, Dr. Tschiggfrey, made a speech over Radio Tyrol. Dr. Tschiggfrey said, among other things, that the peace treaty of St. Germain had drawn a line of injustice straight through the Tyrolean land. Since 1363, the Tyrol had been part of Austria, he said, and more than 1,300 years had passed since this land had first been settled and cultivated by the Bajuwares and the Alemans. In his address, he then described the rough road the Austrian minority had to tread in Italy, concluding:

"Forty years after the unhappy day on which the Tyrol was turned asunder and chopped up, the hopes of the South Tyrol, the Tyrol and of Austria are directed at the United Nations. May the conscience of the world finally awaken for the South Tyrol, too, and help the natural right of the South Tyroleans to freedom and their native way of life to break through. With the solemn promise to our countrymen on the Etsch and the Eisack ever to keep brotherly faith, we send our whole-hearted greetings past the Brenner, Reschen and Pustertal to the South Tyrol."

To commemorate the occasion, the Tyrol parliament met in special session. Speaker Obermoser who delivered the memorial address, asked: "What do we need?" He answered the question by saying that what was needed was an ever stronger appeal to justice coupled with complete rejection of illegal means and threats. He said that "within a few weeks we shall know the decision of the United Nations in the South Tyrol question. Let us hope that this decision will be such that we shall be spared having to reawaken the world's conscience."

Obermoser warned that for the Tyroleans "disappointed hopes will not mean an end to our South Tyroleans policies." He said:

"To our countrymen in the south of Tyrol belongs our faith in a deep spiritual bond. The question of the South Tyrol - as we consider it today - is not a matter of individual political parties or a matter of individual people, but a matter close to the hearts of all Tyroleans and Austrians.

No Illusory Success!

In the evening hours, the Berg-Insel-Bund held a huge torchlight parade in Tyrol's capital. In front of the provincial

Continued on page 5)

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT DELAYS ACTION ON RESIGNATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT

Vienna -- Federal President Dr. Adolf Schaerf withheld acceptance of the resignation of Austria's coalition government, it was officially announced in Vienna Oct. 22.

The cabinet, headed by Chancellor Julius Raab, resigned earlier the same day after failing to reach agreement on next year's budget.

Making use of his constitutional prerogative to accept or to refuse a government resignation, the President instructed Chancellor Raab to make another effort to solve the critical problem, primarily involving a dispute between the coalition partners - the Austrian people's party and the Socialists - over financing an increase in old-age pensions.

Government Crisis Unrelated to South Tyrol Question.

In wire dispatches to the Austrian U.N. Delegation the responsible leaders of both parties at the same time endorsed their continued support of all measures taken by Foreign Minister Dr. Kreisky, presently in New York, to bring about a just solution of the South Tyrol problem.

ANTI-AUSTRIAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN ROME.

Austria's efforts to reach a just solution of the South Tyrol problem in the United Nations have led to anti-Austrian demonstrations in the Italian capital.

On October 10 and 11, between 1,500 and 2,000 neo-fascist students and youths stirred up trouble in front of the building housing the Austrian Consulate General in Rome. Police reinforcements were necessary to reestablish order.

On October 15, clashes ensued between youthful demonstrators and the police which had to call emergency squads to cope with the trouble and block the streets adjoining the Austrian embassy.

Significantly, during the demonstration anti-semitic excesses took place. When the neo-fascist demonstrators were unable to reach either the Austrian embassy or the consulate general, they let off steam on Jewish business people.

According to a Reuters dispatch, the students marched through the streets of a neighborhood where mainly Jewish family live and operate their businesses. Numerous incidents occurred when the neo-fascists provoked Jewish passers-by and businessmen. However, police stopped these incidents energetically following an alarm.

Anti-Austrian demonstrations also took place at the same time in several other Italian cities, such as Milan and Trieste but reinforced police units were able to avoid clashes.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS:

The Austrian Information Service is able to provide the readers of its news bulletin, who are interested in church architecture, with a 24-page brochure, dedicated to masterpieces of ecclesiastic architecture in Austria.

Illustrated with two-color line drawings, it covers 37 ecclesiastic edifices - churches, cathedrals, abbeys and monasteries - in each case giving something of the building's history and calling attention to its treasures.

The booklet may also be obtained from the Austrian State Tourist Department, 444 Madison Ave, New York, N.Y.

AN INTEGRATED EUROPE ONLY A STARTING POINT; DR. REINHARD KAMITZ SPEAKS BEFORE THE AMA IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK -- A European integrated economy is not a final goal but only the starting point for an Atlantic union which will include the United States and Canada, and maybe, at a later date, other parts of the Free World.

This was the opinion of Dr. Reinhard Kamitz, former Austrian finance minister, addressing the opening session of a three-day conference of the American Management Association held in New York.

Dr. Kamitz, now president of the Austrian National Bank, was the first of 21 speakers scheduled to address the conclave.

Reporting on the split between the European Common Market and the European Free Trade Association, Dr. Kamitz stated that the need is now "to find a bridge between these two organizations in order to develop integration on the broadest possible basis." Dr. Kamitz is credited to have been one of the leading architects of the EFTA, believing that the organization would help the "Outer Seven" nations (Austria, Great Britain, Switzerland, Portugal, Norway, Sweden and Denmark) negotiate an equitable trade arrangement with the Common Market (France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg).

Free Interchange

The Austrian fiscal authority stated that it was unfortunate that "economic integration" is often thought of as only a matter of free interchange of goods, capital and services.

Instead, he said, it comes down to a matter of composing the basic productive structures of the countries concerned. "The application of the principle of international division of labor means that the factors of production in the various countries involved have to be combined in such a way to win the highest rate of productivity." Such a development, he said, demands the acceleration of capital movements.

Dr. Kamitz said that capital movements not only lead to the necessary supply of equipment and goods, but promote real international economic interdependence.

The former Finance Minister conceded that economic protectionism is "understandable," even though "selfish." But while human nature should not be expected to change, proper administration of integration policies could provide the preconditions under which those feelings might substantially lessen. Dr. Kamitz said he felt that capital movements could contribute toward achieving this end.

Dr. Kamitz' business audience paid particularly keen attention to his discussion of the United States' gold problem. "I have the impression," he said, "that public opinion seems to get far more excited about the increase of dollar liabilities of the United States and the sales of gold than about the fundamental condition and structure of the balance of payments. The outflow of capital...as its counterpart the acquisition of foreign assets, and in this way it is some-

what different from an outflow of funds resulting from a deficit on current account.

Substantial Trade Surplus

"The United States," he said, "now has a substantial trade surplus which for the whole of 1960 may exceed \$4 billion and which, with net income from investments and other invisible receipts, may well amount to \$6 billion. This surplus would, for the time being, certainly be sufficient to cover the indispensable requirements of the United States for expenditure and investment abroad." Dr. Kamitz added that also continuous vigilance is required, the United States' "fundamental balance of payments problem is improving. Therefore," he said, "pessimistic judgments concerning the future of the dollar are inappropriate."

In discussing international integration, Dr. Kamitz said most people are concerned only with their personal wants, not considering the way their doings affect the economy as a whole. "It is striking that nowadays," he said, "so many people seem to be willing to sacrifice personal freedom in order to get security.

"I am personally very much concerned about this.... attitude. I think it might be due to the fact that people in the Free World do not realize what the loss of freedom really means." The banker said that freedom is threatened by collectivistic economic policies. Special caution, he urged, must be given to the formulation of tax policy.

"Not enough attention has been paid to the fact that the law of diminishing returns also applies to taxation," he said. Taxation can be increased for quite a long time, and can thereby bring about increasing returns of public revenue, but from a certain point on, when government starts to absorb a high percentage of the national income, additional taxation leads to diminishing tax returns." He added that this situation prevails when private enterprise is jeopardized by conditions which no longer warrant the risk-taking inherent in investment.

The former Austrian official said that by avoiding over-taxation, a broad basis can be built from which steadily mounting public revenues can be obtained. "In order to get higher tax returns," he said, "we must ensure that economic prosperity prevails and that optimum use is made of the resources available." This condition is only possible in the long run, he said, if private industry is permitted to develop freely.

On Cutting Taxes

Illustrating his views with personal experience, Dr. Kamitz said that during his eight and one-half year tenure of office as finance minister he had effected three substantial income tax reductions, abolished some consumer taxes and allowed tax concessions to encourage capital formation for investment purposes. He said that when he first announced this program he was accused of being a "madman" and many predictions were heard that his fiscal policy would bring national bankruptcy. But during the period in which he held office, public revenue rose from a Schilling equivalence of

\$769,200,000 to \$1,538,400,000. "This was, of course, due to a rapid expansion of our economy, which I feel must primarily be credited to the measures of financial policy which were initiated and executed during this period."

Dr. Kamitz is generally recognized to be the one man most responsible for Austria's economic comeback of the 1950s. Between 1953—his first full year as Finance Minister—and the beginning of 1960, Austrian Gross National Product shot up 46%, second only in Free Europe to the 47% rise scored by West Germany. Meantime, inflation was kept in check, the over-all price level only having risen 5.1% during the last five years. Prior to the "Kamitz era"—between 1945 and 1952—the annual assault on the Austrian Schilling had amounted to between 20 and 30%.

The new Austrian Finance Minister, Dr. Eduard Heilinger, for several years served as Dr. Kamitz' aide in the Austrian Ministry.

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE OPENED IN SEATTLE

The United States has recently given permission to establish an Austrian Consulate in Seattle with jurisdiction for the State of Washington.

Dr. Adolf Schaerf, President of the Federal Republic, has appointed Henry T. Simonson as the first Honorary Vice-Consul in this region. Mr. Simonson is a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, president of the Anderson and Thompson Ski Company and a member of the Rotary Club. Offices have been established at 1725 Westlake Avenue North (Phone: ATwater 3-9844; Cable address: Austroko).



1961 WORLD BANK AND IMF MEETING IN VIENNA

Vienna, in line with its tradition as one of Europe's foremost convention cities, next year will play host to the world's leading financial experts and central bankers. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have chosen Austria's capital for the 16th Annual Meeting of their boards of governors. From September 18 through 23, 1961, over 500 representatives from 68 nations are expected to converge upon Vienna. It is expected that the guests to these sessions, from the investment and commercial banking fields, will examine extensively Austria's potential as a market for capital and equity investments.

Austria's relations with the World Bank have been particularly close during the last decade, with the bank having recognized the Alpine nation as one of the best credit risks. \$100 million in World Bank loans came to Austria, with the proceeds helping to finance extensive investment programs in the electric power industry, road-building and the modernization of the telephone system.

AUSTRIA DOUBLES CONTRIBUTION TO U.N. ASSISTANCE FUNDS

Austria announced at a recent session of the XV General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, that it will double its annual contribution to the Technical Assistance and Special Funds of the organization. Altogether Austria will allocate \$430,000.00 for these purposes.

EASTMAN KODAK ESTABLISHES AFFILIATED COMPANY IN AUSTRIA

The roster of American companies extending their operations into Austria continues to grow. The Eastman Kodak Company of Rochester, N.Y., has just announced plans to establish a subsidiary in Vienna. The new company, which will start operations as Kodak Austria GmbH at the beginning of 1961, is expected to handle the full Kodak line of photographic products. In making the announcement, Mr. Richard B. De Mallie, Assistant Vice President and General Manager of Kodak's International Division, said Kodak's decision was influenced by "Austria's growth pattern." Until now, an Austrian firm has acted as distributor for Eastman Kodak in the Alpine nation.

AUSTRIAN WINE-GROWERS PROMISE TOP VINTAGE FOR 1960, RECORD HARVEST

Austria's wine industry, which in recent years has successfully added a most popular item to the country's export list, promises the best vintage in years. With the 1960 grape crop coming down from the rolling hills around Vienna and the mountain slopes of Tyrol, the nation's 80,000 vintners also anticipated a considerably higher production than last year.

In 1959, Austrian wine production totaled 18.5 million gallons. This year's output, according to preliminary reports, should come to 26.42 million gallons and will realize a return of about \$13.4 million.

The reputation of Austrian wines has been spread by the million of foreign tourists who come annually to the Alpine nation. A growing demand has been particularly noticeable for the Austrian red wines.

DIVISION (Continued from page 2)

theater, Chairman Widmoser gave an address in which he said, among other things:

"We depend on our delegation in New York to achieve the best it can for our land. But if the echo of world morality should continue to resound in vain, our delegates should know that they may return home unsuccessfully but never with illusory success. Justice must be reestablished in order to guarantee the Tyrol's way of life. We shall not have justice handed to us, we shall have to struggle for it, fight for it."

Italian Protest Rejected

The Italian government had officially protested in Vienna against the holding of the memorial ceremonies. Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab rejected the protest with the statement that the conflict with Italy about the South Tyrol could have been avoided if Rome had entertained the justified demands of the South Tyroleans.

ALTAR DATING BACK TO 219 FOUND IN AUSTRIA

A magnificent altar believed to have been raised in honor of Emperor Heliogabal in the year 219 is among rich finds made this season by Professor Erich Swoboda, rector of Graz University, at the site of the ancient city of Carnuntum.

Carnuntum, former capital of the Roman province of Upper Pannonia, is 40 miles east of Vienna and is one of the best preserved Roman cities north of the Alps. It was destroyed in a war about the year 400 and the site never was built over.

Tried To Chisel Out Name

The ruins of it first were discovered after two British travelers had reported seeing parts of an amphitheater sticking above the ground in 1737.

The altar bears inscriptions which have not yet been completely deciphered because it appears that after Emperor Heliogabal was murdered by his soldiers they tried to chisel out his name.

It would appear, however, that this altar was presented by a certain Faustinianus, who was a member of the city council of Carnuntum and before that, commander of various military units on the frontiers of the Roman Empire. On the sides of the altar stone are reliefs showing Mars, the God of War, and Victoria, the Goddess of Victory.

This year's find will join the mass of relics laid bare during the excavation of the last ten years and now displayed in the open air museum at Carnuntum, which enjoys the reputation of being one of the best north of the Alps.

Marble In Farm Homes

The upper parts of the city have disappeared as the peasants of the district, through the centuries, have used the bricks and stones to build their own houses. It is no rarity to find a block of polished marble, in an old farm house wall in the neighborhood, or to find cows drinking from carved stone sarcophagi, which once served as coffins for the wealthy citizens of Carnuntum.

From what so far has been discovered, Carnuntum seems to have been a wealthy but rather vulgar city. It had two fine amphitheaters — one of them built by Gaius Domitianus Smaragdus to avoid being tried for war profiteering by his fellow citizens of Carnuntum. The second was reserved for the use of the Roman occupation forces.

So far, however, no trace has been found of a high level of cultural life in the city. The amphitheaters seem to have been used for circuses and gladiator shows.

"Big Four" Meeting

Carnuntum, on the shores of the river Danube, was visited by many distinguished Romans. Marcus Auerlius stayed there, the Emperors Hadrian and Septimius Severus visited it, and once it was the site of a "big four" meeting of Diocletian, Maximilian, Galerius and Licinius, held to iron out problems which had risen between the eastern and western parts of the Empire.

Life in Carnuntum seems to have been very pleasant for its wealthier citizens. (Continued page 6)

The foundations which have been excavated show that they had elaborate central heating systems and fine bathrooms.

There was a lively trade in jewels and pottery from Egypt to the North Sea.

The museum of Carnuntum shows also that a skilled band of forgers made this their center. Many faked coins, which can barely be distinguished from real ones, have been found in the ruins.

The population seems to have been a mixed bag of native Celtic-Illyrian peoples, soldiers from every part of the Empire and only a few Italian Romans. The Latin they used, to judge from the inscriptions uncovered, was crude. The number of interpreters buried here shows how heterogeneous the population was.

The excavators already have laid bare the main shopping center of the city where, some 2,000 years ago, were jeweler shops, stores selling equipment for Roman soldiers, wine shops and general stores.

FRIEDRICH GULDA AND THE WIND ENSEMBLE OF THE VIENNA PHILHARMONIC TO TOUR THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

World famous Austrian pianist Friedrich Gulda and the Wind Ensemble of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, consisting of Karl Mayrhofer (Oboe), Alfred Prinz (Clarinet), Gottfried Freiberg (Horn) and Karl Ohlberger (Bassoon) will tour the United States and Canada this fall.

The opening concert, featuring works of Mozart and Beethoven, took place at New York's Town Hall on Oct. 25.

Other performances are tentatively scheduled as follows:

Oct.		
26	Newport, R.I.	11 Miami, Fla.
27	Dubois, R.I.	12 Deland, Fla.
28	Montclair, N.J.	13 Atlanta, Ga.
29	Malden, Mass.	14 St. Petersburg, Fla.
 Nov.		
1	Cleveland, Ohio	15 Asheville, N.C.
2	Janesville, Wisc.	16 Winston-Salem, N.C.
3	Wilmette, Ill.	17 Red Springs, N.C.
4	St. Louis, Mo.	18 Geneva, N.Y.
6	Pittsburgh, Kans.	21 Kingston, Ont., Canada
7	Chicago, Ill.	23 Toronto, Ont., Canada
10	Greenville, Miss.	24 Washington, D.C.
		25 New York, N.Y.
		27

"MOZART AND HIS MUSIC."

A new work by the well-known musicologist John N. Burk has just been published by Random House under the title "Mozart and his Music." It deals with the immortal creations of the Austrian musical genius.

Burk who also wrote a very valuable Beethoven biography treats Mozart, the man and the composer, in a manner which in every page of the book vouches for the author's competence. The volume also contains many well-translated Mozart letters as well as a complete list of Mozart's compositions, as contained in the Koechel index. Readers interested in music will find much information, well put together, in Burk's latest work.

WINTER SPORTS IN AUSTRIA

Austria's contribution to winter sports in the United States is often called its most popular export. There is much reason to accept this judgment because Austrian skiers were no doubt responsible for the great popularity Alpine skiing enjoys in America today. They have contributed their unique talents as instructors and organizers to such well-known winter resorts as Aspen, Sun Valley, Heavenly Valley, North Conway and Stowe. Many of them have become American citizens. In Canada, too, these Austrian ambassadors of goodwill have made their mark.

Thus, it might not seem far-fetched to devote an article to winter sports in Austria, the nation which has given so many champion skiers and skaters to the world.

Austria is, of course, a natural winter sports country because its easily accessible mountain territory offers Austrians, young and old, every opportunity to practice, and participate in, every type of Alpine activity. Close to home or work, Austrians can train as skiers, skaters and bobsleigh racers and develop into specialized athletes without taking time off from their jobs.

By the same token, Austria's natural setting makes it a winter sports paradise appreciated by tourists from around the world. And as tourists began to swarm in, Austria met the challenge by creating and developing sports facilities which today are second to none. Cable cars and skilifts are to be found wherever skiing is performed, and that is practically everywhere.

But the visitor need not always be high in the beautiful Austrian Alps to enjoy his special sport. Vienna, the capital of Austria, has plenty to offer. It is the center of figure skating and many other sports-on-the-ice. No wonder then that it is the home town of such internationally known skaters as Olympic champion Willy Schaefer, the Pausin brother-and-sister team, Eva Pawlik, Ingrid Wendel, Hanna Eigel and the 1956 Cortina Olympic champions, Schwarz and Oppelt.

But Vienna also offers the skier his fill at the nearby Rax and Schneeberg. And a real good mountain, the Semmering, is only 58 miles from Vienna. There visitors may indulge in skiing, coasting and bob-sledding and even ice shooting. The well known ski jump of Liechtenberg is there, too, and if visitors are not quite up to it, they can enjoy spectator sports by watching famous jumpers in action during the annual meets.

Perhaps it would go too far to mention all of Austria's winter resorts, because there are so many of them. But let us list at least the most important ones. In Upper Austria, there is great skiing in the Dachstein area, and from Linz, Krippenstein may be reached in the greatest of ease by bus, car or cable car. Styria's beautiful skiing area centers in the Salzkammergut, featuring the famous ski jump of Kulm where jumps of up to 426 feet are commonplace. Other spectacular skiing landscapes may be found in the Dachstein area.

Carinthia's native sons and daughters are known to be active winter sports enthusiasts. Klagenfurt's ice hockey team even won the Austrian league championship last winter although ice hockey is not a primary sport in Austria.



Kitzbueheler Horn in Tyrol

Then, when you leave Carinthia for Salzburg, you cross the great Alpine highway that features Austria's highest mountain, the Grossglockner. There skiing goes on until summer. As a matter of fact, the great international skiing competition held there annually takes place in June! The province of Salzburg is justly famed for its resorts: Zell-on-the-Lake, Schmitthoehe, Hintermoos, Saalbach and Saalfelden. There many of Austria's champion skiers train under the supervision of former world champion Sepp Bradl. One need only mention such internationally known experts as the brothers Leodolter who have won every coveted prize for their jumping and their exploits in the Nordic combination.

Even the city of Salzburg offers residents and visitors ideal skiing slopes in the immediate vicinity, on the Gaisberg. The best-known winter resort is Badgastein, the great spa, where modern cable cars and ski lifts take sportsmen and sportswomen to the sunny heights 7,216 feet above sea level. The Gastein Valley offers such well-known slopes as the Stubnerkogel and Graukogel with ski trails going down all the way to Badgastein and Hofgastein. Sledding and sleighing are also "at home" in the valley.

But the real heart of Austrian winter sports is the Tyrol with its ski capital Kitzbuehel. It boasts of the most magnificent slopes for every skiing skill. It is here where most foreign tourists come for winter sports, because it offers just about everything for everybody. Kitzbuehel, by the way, is the home of triple Olympic gold medal winner Toni Sailer (Cortina, 1956), Olympic gold medal winner Ernst Hinterseer (Sun Valley, 1960), and such famous skiers as Christian Pravda, Anderl Molterer, Hias Leitner and so many others. Is it any wonder then that legend has it that the children of Kitzbuehel are born with skis on their feet?

Another skiers' paradise is the Arlberg, an area taking

in St. Anton, Zuers and Lech. St. Anton's ski school alone has 130 instructors, supervised by famous Rudi Matt. Of course, St. Anton, home town of ski pioneer Hannes Schneider, has all the facilities, including cable cars and skilifts, which visitors from home and abroad have a right to expect. An outing to 9,840-foot Valluga Mountain is of special interest to good skiers, an experience in Alpine skiing never to be forgotten.

Most of the members of Austria's Olympic team at Squaw Valley -- participating in the down hill, slalom and giant slalom events -- were recruiting from Arlberg, Kitzbuehel and Innsbruck while the majority of the Olympic jumpers and Nordic combination contestants came from Salzburg and Styria.

The best bobsleigh racers come from the Wipp Valley, located between Innsbruck and the Italian frontier, and from Imst, 37 miles east of Innsbruck. Both places have excellent sled runs.

Ice shooting is perhaps the safest and most wide-spread winter sports in Austria. It is played in cities and hamlets throughout the country. Competing teams "shoot" metal discs down narrow ice covered lanes, resembling bowling alleys. The discs are provided with broomstick-like handles along the general lines of curling stones. However, experts say that ice shooting requires greater strength and mobility on the part of the player than curling.

Of course, every winter sportsman knows by now that the 1964 Winter Olympics will be held in Innsbruck. A few words about this old Austrian city should be of interest for that, if no other reason. Innsbruck has long been the city of skiers and mountain climbers, nestled as it is in the Alps. It offers every possible facility for winter sports within and around its borders. It is, perhaps, the only city in the world where people may use their lunch hour to go skiing.

and still return in time. Not far from the city is Patscherkofel Mountain, 6,560 feet high, or Seegrube Mountain or the Hafelekar. But if these mountains are too high or too rough, there is the fashionable winter resort of Seefeld just 20 minutes by train or bus from Innsbruck. 3,936 feet above sea level, Seefeld and environs have all the facilities needed by most visitors, including lifts and cable cars, ski runs, and even an indoor swimming pool -- and all set in the midst of a winter landscape.

SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMP MARKING 40th ANNIVERSARY OF PLEBISCITE TAKEN IN CARINTHIA

After the breakdown, in 1918, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the young Kingdom of Yugoslavia claimed extensive parts of territory from the newly founded Republic of Austria. These territorial demands covered a major portion of the Federal Province of Carinthia along with its capital town of Klagenfurt, an area with a big Slovene population. The Carinthians forcefully opposed the military occupation by Yugoslav troops



and volunteers, their resistance being rather effective although the Austrian Government could support it only on the diplomatic level and not by military action.

On the basis of the reports drawn up by an American Study Commission whose members had gathered information on the internal situation of the country, the Austrian delegation at the Peace Treaty Conference held at St. Germain in 1919 was able to check the excessive demands of Yugoslavia and secure the taking of a plebiscite in the area of the Klagenfurt Basin.

The result of the plebiscite taken under inter-Allied control on October 10, 1920, proved to be a great success for the cause of Austria and the unity of Carinthia. With 95 per cent of the population taking part in the plebiscite, more than 59 per cent of the votes were in favor of Austria, and a little less than 41 per cent in favor of Yugoslavia. Another attempt of Yugoslavia to occupy the territory with armed forces was obviated, the Allies lodging a strong protest against such action.

Using their right of self-determination, the Carinthian people had won a victory over nationalistic passions.

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